

Message Text

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FOR CARTER FROM PA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (VANCE)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT JAMES RESTON NEW YORK TIMES BY-LINER, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14, HEADED "INCHING TOWARD CHINA."
2. THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA MOVE WITH GLACIAL SLOWNESS, BUT RECENTLY THERE HAVE BEEN A COUPLE OF VAGUE INDICATIONS THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION IS TRYING BY INDIRECT MEANS TO FIND A FORMULA FOR NORMALIZING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH PEKING.
3. FOR EXAMPLE, PRESIDENT CARTER HAS SAID PRIVATELY IN RECENT DAYS THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN INFORMED THAT FRANCE AND BRITAIN HAVE BEEN TALKING ABOUT SELLING MODERN

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ARMS AND TECHNOLOGY TO THE COMMUNIST REGIME IN PEKING
AND THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS RAISED NO OBJECTIONS..

4. IT IS ALSO REPORTED BY BERNARD WEINRAUB OF THE NEW YORK TIMES THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS QUIETLY AGREED TO A CHINESE REQUEST FOR AIRBORNE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY EQUIPMENT WHICH IS USED TO EXPLORE THE OCEAN FLOOR BUT CAN BE

ADAPTED TO ANTI-SUBMARINE WARFARE.

5. THIS MAY HAVE BEEN WHAT ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI, THE PRESIDENT'S NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER, HAD IN MIND WHEN HE REMARKED AFTER HIS RETURN FROM PEKING RECENTLY THAT HE HAD REAFFIRMED "OUR COMMITMENT TO NORMALIZATION, AND PERHAPS TO MAKE A MODEST CONTRIBUTION OF AN INDIRECT SORT TO IT."

6. EXCEPT IN THE CASE OF YUGOSLAVIA, IT HAS BEEN GENERALLY AGREED AMONG THE NATO ALLIES NOT TO SHIP ARMS TO ANY COMMUNIST COUNTRY, SO THAT ANY DECISION BY BRITAIN, FRANCE OR ANY OTHER ALLY TO SELL ARMS TO CHINA, WITH WASHINGTON'S ACQUIESCENCE, WOULD BE AN IMPORTANT CHANGE.

7. MEANWHILE, MR. CARTER HAS BEEN RESPONDING SOMEWHAT MORE OPENLY TO QUESTIONS ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A "TRADE MISSION" ON TAIWAN AS ONE MEANS OF GRANTING DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION TO PEKING AND WITHDRAWING IT FROM TAIWAN.

8. HIS DECISION TO SEND MR. BRZEZINSKI TO CHINA WITH AUTHORITY TO DISCUSS A BROAD RANGE OF INTERNATIONAL QUESTIONS, INCLUDING THE STATUS OF U.S.-SOVIET STRATEGIC ARMS NEGOTIATIONS, IS ANOTHER INDICATION OF WASHINGTON'S DESIRE TO KEEP MOVING, HOWEVER SLOWLY, TOWARD A SETTLEMENT

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WITH THE NEW REGIME IN PEKING. BUT THIS IS A VERY DELICATE PROCESS, RISKING MISUNDERSTANDING WITH EITHER MOSCOW OR PEKING.

9. OFFICIAL PEKING POLICY ON TAIWAN WAS DEFINED BY CHAIRMAN HUA KUO-FENG AT THE 11TH CONGRESS OF CHINA'S COMMUNIST PARTY LAST AUGUST:

10. "TAIWAN PROVINCE," HE SAID, "IS CHINA'S SACRED TERRITORY. WE ARE DETERMINED TO LIBERATE TAIWAN. WHEN AND HOW IS ENTIRELY CHINA'S INTERNAL AFFAIR."

11. EVEN THIS STATEMENT WAS REGARDED BY THE OFFICIAL CHINA EXPERTS HERE AS A SOMEWHAT ENCOURAGING REMARK SINCE CHAIRMAN HUA DID NOT STATE ON THIS OCCASION THAT PEKING WAS DETERMINED TO LIBERATE TAIWAN "BY FORCE." BUT WASHINGTON, DESPITE ITS RECENT SYMBOLIC MOVES TOWARD A COMPROMISE WITH PEKING, CLEARLY HASN'T RESOLVED THE TAIWAN DILEMMA.

12. ON THE ONE HAND, THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION WOULD LIKE TO HAVE SOME ASSURANCE THAT IF IT RECOGNIZED PEKING

AND WITHDREW RECOGNITION FROM TAIWAN, THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT USE FORCE TO CAPTURE TAIWAN. ON

THE OTHER HAND, THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAS AGREED TO THE TERMS OF THE NIXON-MAO TSE-TUNG SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE, WHICH RECOGNIZED PEKING AND TAIWAN AS "ONE CHINA."

13. LAST APRIL, PRESIDENT CARTER TOLD BUD SMYER OF THE HONOLULU STAR-BULLETIN: "I WOULD NOT ACKNOWLEDGE ANY INSURMOUNTABLE OBSTACLE IN REACHING THE GOALS EXPRESSED IN THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE, WHICH IS BINDING ON US AND WHICH I FULL SUPPORT....

14. "WE RECOGNIZE THE CONCEPT THAT IS SHARED IN TAIWAN UNCLASSIFIED

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AND ON THE MAINLAND THAT THERE'S ONLY ONE CHINA. WE RECOGNIZE THAT IT'S FOR THE BEST INTERESTS OF OUR OWN NATION TO HAVE FULL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONSHIPS WITH CHINA. AND MY HOPE IS THAT OVER A PERIOD OF MONTHS--WE ARE NOT IN ANY BIG HURRY; NEITHER ARE THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA LEADERS--THAT WE WILL COMPLETELY REALIZE THE HOPES EXPRESSED IN THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE."

15. ACCORDINGLY, A MAJOR QUESTION REMAINS, FOR WASHINGTON WOULD LIKE TO SEE AT LEAST A UNILATERAL PROMISE BY PEKING NOT TO USE FORCE AGAINST TAIWAN WHILE PEKING REGARDS EVEN THE SUGGESTION OF SUCH A PROMISE AS UNACCEPTABLE "FOREIGN INTERFERENCE."

16. THE HOPE IN OFFICIAL QUARTERS HERE IS THAT PRACTICAL STEPS, SUCH AS IMPROVED U.S.-CHINESE TRADE, INCLUDING DUAL PURPOSE TECHNOLOGY, AND THE SHIPMENT OF ALLIED ARMS TO CHINA, WITH U.S. APPROVAL, WILL LEAD PEKING TO INDICATE ON ITS OWN, WITHOUT ANY DEMANDS OR REQUESTS FROM WASHINGTON, THAT IT WILL SETTLE THE TAIWAN PROBLEM BY PEACEFUL MEANS. BUT NO SUCH INDICATION IS LIKELY TO COME FROM PEKING, OR SATISFY THE STILL INFLUENTIAL PRO-TAIWAN FACTIONS WITHIN THE CONGRESS OR THE CARTER PEN-TAGON.

17. "IF THE UNITED STATES DOES NOT RECOGNIZE US IN 100 YEARS," MAO TSE-TUNG ONCE WROTE, "THEY WILL RECOGNIZE US IN 101 YEARS." SINCE THEN THE CHINESE HAVE SEEMED A LITTLE MORE IMPATIENT FOR RECOGNITION, BUT NOT MUCH. STILL MR. CARTER KEEPS TRYING BY SIGNS, SIGNALS, AND INDIRECT CONCESSIONS TO CHANGE THEIR MINDS, SO FAR WITHOUT MUCH SUCCESS. END TEXT. CHRISTOPHER

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